

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 NEAE-00 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0112

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4437

FOR NEA: ATHERTON FROM MELOY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP LE

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF APO MAIL SERVICE TO ALL MISSION PERSONNEL

1. I WOULD LIKE TO ENLIST YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HAVING APO PRIVILEGES EXTENDED TO INCLUDE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THIS MISSION. AS THE NUMBER IN THE EMBASSY IS REDUCED, THE DIFFICULTIES OF PROVIDING THIS SERVICE TO ALL PERSONNEL ARE MINIMIZED; AT SAME TIME, IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY EVIDENT TO SMALLER STAFF THAT SOME PERSONNEL ARE ENJOYING SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER SERVICE THAN OTHERS. AS YOU ARE ALSO AWARE, BEIRUT IS NO LONGER AND IS NOT LIKELY TO BE FOR SOME TIME THE MARKETPLACE IT ONCE WAS, AND I FORSEE STAFF HAVING TO DEPEND INCREASINGLY UPON MAIL ORDERS TO OBTAIN CLOTHING AND OTHER CONSUMER ITEMS THAT ONCE WERE AVAILABLE LOCALLY, IN SHORT, FOR PURPOSES OF EFFICIENCY AND STAFF MORALE, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS STEP BE TAKEN.

2. I AM FULLY AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN VOLUMINOUS CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS QUESTION AT THE TIME WHEN THIS MISSION COUNTED SOME 200 EMPLOYEES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. WE ARE NOW SPEAKING, HOWEVER, OF FEWER THAN FIFTY PERSONS TOTAL, OF WHOM APPROXIMATELY ONE-THIRD ARE ENTITLED TO APO BY VIRTUE OF THEIR ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE STATUS. I WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT WE CAN CUT THROUGH RED TAPE AND INSTITUTE THIS CHANGE EXPEDITIOUSLY. PERHAPS THIS PROCESS COULD BE PUSHED ALONG IF THE EXPANDED SERVICE WERE LIMITED TO EXCLUDE REGISTERED MAIL (WHICH I UNDERSTAND REQUIRES

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HANDLING BY AN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE) AND TO ENCOMPASS ONLY USG

EMPLOYEES OF THIS MISSION (WHICH WILL SAVE US FROM THORNY PROBLEM
OF ACCESS BY RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL).

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING DEPARTMENT'S REACTION TO THIS
PROPOSAL FOLLOWING APPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH DEFENSE DEPT.
MELOY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT04437
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760194-0176
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760539/aaaabgxb.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTENSION OF APO MAIL SERVICE TO ALL MISSION PERSONNEL
TAGS: AFSP, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006